

The regular monthly meeting of the Altoona Water Authority Board of Directors was held on Thursday, December 19, 2019 in the Board room at the Administrative Office. Chairman Neugebauer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance:

Mr. Neugebauer, Mr. Ake, Mr. Strohm, Mr. Gehret and Mrs. Kooman were present, constituting a quorum in accordance with AWA Bylaws. All AWA Board of Directors meetings are conducted in accordance with the PA Sunshine Laws. Also in attendance were Solicitor, David Consiglio, AWA Staff, Mark Perry, Mike Sinisi, Gina DeRubeis, Todd Musser, Ron Becher and Kathy Gabella.

Guests: Mayor Pacifico, Richard Sutter, Thayne Nadar

Public Comment:

Mr. Nadar explained as a landlord he was getting stuck with a water bill that wasn't paid by his tenant. He feels the unpaid bill should be the responsibility of either the tenant or the Altoona Water Authority should write it off. He would like the Authority to reconsider its policy. Mr. Neugebauer thanked him for his time and told him the board would discuss it.

Mr. Sutter gave a brief update on the Authority receiving a grant for \$900,000.00 for the acquisition of the Cooney Property. This is a fifty percent (50%) matching grant and staff is looking into the different options to come up with the matching funds. This is the C2P2 Grant from DCNR.

Approval of the Minutes:

Mr. Strohm moved to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2019 meeting. Mr. Ake seconded the motion. Mr. Neugebauer called the question. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of 5-0. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Unfinished Business:

1. Bellwood Dam Update – GDF is preparing the response to DEP for the outstanding items and it is hopeful the permit will be issued the first quarter of 2020.
2. Bellwood Water Treatment Plant Update – the plant will be off line for approximately two (2) years. This project is still in the technical review phase with DEP. Staff is optimistic this permit will be received in early 2020.
3. Water Treatment Plant Ozone/CFE Upgrades –DEP required a plant modification permit. This could take up to six (6) months.

The Authority has trouble getting parts for the original ozonation units. Since some of the

circuitry parts are no longer made the Authority has decided to replace these systems with new ozone systems that use ozone generated on site using liquid oxygen. Staff has developed a schedule to replace all of the old systems starting the fourth quarter of 2020 and completion by 2027. This will also include installing membrane filtration systems at all of the plants.

The Authority will apply to Pennvest for financing. They have a new financing program called Programmatic Financing. These projects may be a candidate for this program since there are different plants involved. Using this program you would receive a lump sum and draw from that for the different projects. The planning consultation has not been scheduled but it is anticipated that it will be soon. The Authority staff is hopeful for a Pennvest closing of the first quarter of 2021.

4. Goods Lane Water Line Replacement – this twelve inch (12") main has been problematic for quite some time. With PennDOT repaving this road it is a good time to replace the main. There is approximately four thousand five hundred feet (4,500') of main to be replaced. PennDOT has been very patient with the Authority to be able to do this project. It is hopeful the PennVest Application will be presented to the Board at January's meeting. The cost of the project is approximately 2.1 million dollars.
5. Guaranteed Energy Savings Update – this is being renamed the Biosolids Improvement Project. On December 12 staff met with Energy Savings Group (ESG) which is the engineer on this project. Staff also met with Pennvest on December 12 and DEP for a planning consultation meeting.

On December 16 staff held another meeting with ESG to discuss how their pricing structure works as a design build. The schedule was reviewed and it is moving forward. In January staff will be looking at the Investment Grade Contract to layout before the board as to how much this will cost and how it will be funded.

6. Sanitary Sewer Rehab Lining Project –Contract 196 for the spray-on-lining is slow going. This project is approximately eleven percent (11%) complete. There has been 450 ton of debris removed.

Contract 197 is on hold until sometime in March. The weather plays a major part of this. This contract is approximately fifty-five percent (55%) complete.

The overall project is approximately forty-five percent (45%) complete.

7. Rubber Dams – Lake Altoona and Impounding Dam – the rubber dam at the Impounding Dam has failed twice. HTE is the manufacturing representative and has verbally agreed to replace both dams and cover the cost of installation of them. They have verbally agreed to have Hickes do the installation.

Requisition Approval:

Mr. Neugebauer asked Mrs. DeRubeis for the Financial Report and the Requisitions/Authorizations. Mrs. DeRubeis gave her report and then asked for approval of the following requisitions.

Requisition #23 Water Project Construction Fund totaling - \$20,163.37

Requisitions #25-27 Sewer Division Construction Fund totaling – \$692,556.96

Sewer Division Capital Fund Invoices 83636 & 83635 totaling - \$8,989.72

Mr. Gehret moved to approve the requisitions. Mr. Strohm seconded. Mr. Neugebauer called the question. Motion passed with a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Continuing Disclosure Post Issuance Compliance – In accordance with the Post-Issuance Compliance Procedures adopted June 20, 2019, Mrs. DeRubeis as Compliance Officer reported on the status of continuing disclosure requirements for the Authority's tax-exempt obligations. The Authority is required to file approved annual budgets, audited financial statements as well as report any material events as described in the Continuing Disclosure Certificate each year on the EMMA (Electronic Municipal Market Access) website each year.

In July of 2019 the City of Altoona refinanced the Authority's Sewer Revenue Bonds, Series of 2010 B & C Build America Bonds with Guaranteed Sewer Revenue Bonds, Series 2019. The City hired a dissemination agent, DAC to aid in administering these requirements for the City and the Authority. The Authority's Water Revenue Bonds, Series of 2007 were paid in full in November 2019.

New Business:

1. Rates, Rules & Regulations – many of the fees have not been updated in quite some time. Staff also wants to streamline the process to update. The fees will be updated each year according to the Consumer Price Index.

Resolutions/Motions/Bid Awards

1. Resolution #19-12-920 to approve the 2020 Water Division Operating Fund Budget
2. Resolution #19-12-921 to approve the 2020 Water Division Capital Expenditures Budget
3. Resolution #19-12-922 to approve the 2020 Wastewater Division Sewer Operating Fund Budget
4. Resolution #19-12-923 to approve the 2020 Wastewater Division Capital Expenditure Budget

Mrs. DeRubeis added there will be no increase in water or sewer rates for 2020.

Mrs. Kooman moved to approve Resolutions 19-12-920 through 19-12-923. Mr. Ake seconded the

motion. Mr. Neugebauer called the question. Motion passed with a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Other Business:

2020 Board Meeting Schedule – Mr. Gehret moved to approve the schedule. Mrs. Kooman seconded the motion. Mr. Neugebauer called the question. Motion passed with a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Media Questions

The board and staff addressed questions from Bill Kibler of the Altoona Mirror.

Executive Session:

An Executive Session was called at 10:04 for legal issues.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the Administrative Office Building located at 900 Chestnut Avenue.

Date of Approval: January 23, 2020



Secretary/Assistant Secretary

/klg